United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1349
12 March 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously condemns persistent violations by UNITA of Peace Accords; urges UNITA to accept "unreservedly" results of last September elections; invites Secretary-General to organize high-level meeting between the parties "in good time" before 30 April 1993.

+ In second meeting tonight, Security Council calls on Government of Rwanda and Rwandanese Patriotic Front to respect cease-fire, effective 9 March; invites Secretary-General to examine deployment of United Nations observers along border between Uganda and Rwanda, and to consider possible establishment of international force under the aegis of Organization of African Unity and the United Nations.

+ Bosnian peace talks scheduled to resume in New York early next week with participation of President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia Herzegovina, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban, according to Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference.

+ Democratic People's Republic of Korea decides to withdraw from Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty; assures that its policy of using nuclear energy for "peaceful" purposes is unchanged.

+ Augosto Ramírez Ocampo of Colombia appointed Secretary-General's Special Representative for El Salvador and Chief of Mission of ONUSAL, effective 1 April.

+ Human Rights Commission appoints special rapporteurs to investigate human rights violations in Sudan and Equatorial Guinea.

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The Security Council has condemned the persistent violations by UNITA of the major provisions of the "Acordos de Paz", in particular the continued rejection by that party of the results of the elections held on 29 and 30 September 1992 - deemed as "generally free and fair" - and has stronly demanded that UNITA accept "unreservedly" these results.

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The Council took this action this evening by unanimously adopting resolution 811 (1993), which also demands that the two parties, particularly UNITA, produce early evidence, not later than 30 March, that real progress had been made towards the implementation of the "Acordos de Paz". The resolution also strongly demands an immediate cease-fire throughout the country, and the resumption "without delay and without preconditions" of a continued and meaningful dialogue under United Nations auspices. The Council also reaffirms that it will hold responsible any party that refuses to take part in such a dialogue, "thereby jeopardizing the entire process", and will consider "all appropriate measures" under the United Nations Charter to advance the implementation of the Peace Accords.

The Council has also invited the Secretary-General to seek to organize a meeting between the Government of Angola and UNITA at the "highest possible level", with the view to securing the full implementation of the "Acordos de Paz". The meeting, which should take "in good time" before 30 April 1993, is to consider also the future role of the United Nations in Angola, says the resolution.

The Council has also condemned verbal and physical attacks against the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNAVEM II personnel in Angola, and demanded that these attacks cease forthwith.

Before and after the vote, the members of the Council paid tribute to the work accomplished by Margaret Anstee, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Angola, "under very difficult conditions", and asked the parties, in particular UNITA, to resume immediately their efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict in that country.

The current mandate of UNAVEM II in Angola expires on 30 April 1993.

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In a second meeting this evening, the Security Council called upon the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandanese Patriotic Front (RPF) to respect the cease-fire, which took effect on 9 March, in order to allow for delivery of humanitarian supplies and the return of displaced persons. It also invited the Secretary-General to examine a request by Rwanda for the deployment of United Nations observers along the border between Uganda and Rwanda in consultation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and to consider the possible establishment of an international force under the aegis of the OAU and the United Nations, entrusted inter alia with the protection of, and humanitarian assistance to, the civilian population.

The Council took that action by adopting resolution 812 (1993) unanimously, by which it called upon the two parties to fulfil the obligations they have accepted in the Arusha Agreements and to implement the commitments that they agreed on in Dar-es-Salaam on 7 March concerning the cease-fire and displaced persons.

(more)

Under the resolution, the Council also urged the Government of Rwanda and the RPF to resume the negotiations on 15 March, as agreed, in order to resolve the pending questions with a view to signing a peace agreement at the beginning of April 1993 "at the latest".

Tonight's action was taken following an oral report by the good will mission sent to Rwanda and Uganda by the Secretary General earlier this month.

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The two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, said today that they expected the talks on a peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina to resume at Headquarters early next week, "hopefully on Tuesday", 16 March, with the participation of President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban.

Earlier today, the spokesman for the Co-Chairmen, Fred Eckhard, told correspondents that the peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina were "running out of time", since the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was expiring at the end of the month. He informed correspondents that Deputy Co-Chairman Herbert Okun would travel to Geneva over the weekend where the negotiations on the United Nations Protected Areas, including the Serb-controlled Krajina, were expected to resume on Monday, 15 March, with representatives of the Croatian Government and the Krajina Serbs.

The two Co-Chairmen were back in New York today following yesterday's meeting in Paris with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. During that meeting, held under the auspices of French President François Mitterrand, Mr. Milosevic pledged to use his influence to bring the Bosnian peace talks and the negotiations on Krajina to a successful conclusion.

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The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has announced its decision to withdraw "unavoidably" from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), stating that it was no longer able to fulfil its "obligations" under the treaty and also as a measure to defend its "supreme" interests.

In a press statement issued today, the Government of the People's Republic described that its withdrawal was a "well-justified and self-defensive" measure against the "nuclear war manoeuvres of the United States and the unjust act of some officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)" against the country.

It also noted that the Government's policy of using nuclear energy for "peaceful purposes" remained unchanged and that its people would continue to make every effort to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear weapon-free zone.

The Republic of Korea, in a statement, warned that Pyongyang Government's decision not only posed a grave threat to the stability of the Korean Peninsula but also to the peace and security of the world.

It may be recalled that the IAEA, last month, had called upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respond urgently to its request for access to additional information and to two additional sites in the country. The Democratic People's Republic had also been asked to clarify the reasons for inconsistencies that had emerged from IAEA analysis of nuclear samples and measurements.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Augosto Ramírez Ocampo of Colombia as his Special Representative for El Salvador and Chief of Mission of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), effective 1 April. He will have the rank of Under-Secretary-General.

Mr. Ramírez Ocampo, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, has previously served the United Nations as Assistant Administrator and Regional Director in the Latin American and Caribbean Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). He has also been the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Special Plan for Economic Cooperation in Central America.

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Concerned over violations of human rights in the Sudan, the Commission on Human Rights has decided to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate the situation in that country. The decision was contained in a resolution adopted in Geneva earlier this week, in which the Comission called on all parties concerned to permit international agencies, humanitarian organizations and donor Governments to deliver humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in the Sudan.

Among other action, the Commission decided to appoint a special rapporteur to make a study of the violation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea. It also deplored the continuing serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Zaire and noted with indignation that force was used systematically to prevent and suppress peaceful gatherings and demonstrations.

The Human Rights Commission was scheduled to end its forty-ninth session today.

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